

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8352

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06243

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: SPEAKING INVITATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. EMBASSY HAS TODAY FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY A LETTER TO HIM FROM GABRIEL DU CHASTAIN, PRESIDENT OF THE CERCLE D'OPINION, A PRO-ATLANTIC ALLIANCE POLITICAL GROUP OF CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE IN FRANCE. DU CHASTAIN, IN THE NAME OF HIS CLUB, INVITES THE SECRETARY TO ADDRESS CERCLE D'OPINION AT A TIME OF HIS CHOOSING, BUT HOPEFULLY AT THE END OF JUNE OR BEGINNING OF JULY.

2. DU CHASTAIN HAS ATTACHED TO HIS LETTER BROCHURES GIVING INFORMATION ON THE CLUB. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, IT WAS FOUNDED SIXTEEN YEARS AGO AS AN OUTGROWTH OF A POLITICAL DEBATING CLUB CALLED "OPINION IN 24 HOURS." PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S BROTHER, OLIVIER, SITS ON THE BOARD OF THE ORQANIZATION, AND IN RECENT YEARS GUEST SPEAKERS HAVE INCLUDED WILLY BRANDT, AVERELL HARRIMAN, CHARLES BOHLEN, PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA, EUGENE ROSTOW AND, JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, LEO TINDEMANS.

3. THE CLUB HAS MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND ACTIVE MEMBERS, ALL IMPORTANT IN THE POLITICAL, FINANCIAL AND CULTURAL WORLD IN FRANCE, INCLUDING GEORGE
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PORTMANN, FORMER SENATE VICE PRESIDENT AND

PRESIDENT, SINCE 1966, OF THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR AN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. CERCLE D'OPINION IS VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, AND TOWARDS CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE IN ALL FIELDS.

3. WE BELIEVE DU CHASTAIN'S REQUEST MERITS SERIOUS ATTENTION FOR THREE REASONS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE SECRETARY HAS NEVER ADDRESSED A BODY OF THIS NATURE IN FRANCE, A BODY COMPARABLE IN IMPORTANCE TO PILGRIMS BEFORE WHICH THE SECRETARY SPOKE SO SUCCESSFULLY IN 1974. IN THE SECOND PLACE 1976, THE YEAR OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL, WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE TIME FOR SUCH AN APPEARANCE. LASTLY, THE SYMPATHY OF CERCLE D'OPINION TOWARDS THE U.S., COMBINED WITH ITS IMPORTANCE IN FRANCE, MAKE IT AN IDEAL FORUM FOR THE SECRETARY TO ADDRESS A FRENCH AUDIENCE. I URGE THE SECRETARY TO CONSIDER RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO THIS INVITATION FROM CERCLE D'OPINION.
RUSH

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